

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6, 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett (5,216,162), in view of Nulman (6,456,894).

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett in view of Nulman, and further in view of Johnson (5,712,989).

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cornett in view of Nulman, and further in view of Kou (6,363,365).

For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is submitted that the claims as now amended patentably distinguished over the prior art.

Patentability of the Claims

Claim 6 has been amended to further define and emphasize the following features of Applicants' invention:

- 1) "a function of outputting said selected parts information as information of parts that said users have placed orders for with a manufacturer of said power plant to said manufacturers terminals" and
- (2) "a function of transmitting information of the parts that said manufacturer received the orders for from said user as information of preliminary showing of orders from said manufacturer to a cooperating manufacturer of said manufacturer".

As a result of the above features of Applicants' invention, the information relating to spare parts ordered by the users is communicated with a cooperating manufacturer of the manufacturer of the power plant as preliminary or private showing of the orders, so that it is possible for the cooperating manufacturer to get to work early on delivery preparation of parts used for management and maintenance. As a result, it is possible to achieve an effect that the parts used for management and maintenance can be delivered to the users in a short time.

Neither of the primary references of Nulman '894 and Cornett '612 disclose such a structure whereby spare parts information that the manufacturer received orders from the users for is communicated as a private or preliminary showing of orders from the manufacturer terminal to a cooperating manufacture of the manufacturer. The cited references only disclose something between the users and the manufacturer, and none of the cited references is constructed so that an ordering process from the manufacturer to the cooperating manufacturer is practiced as in the present invention.

With respect to the Johnson '989 and Kou '365 patents, Johnson was only cited as teaching the utilization of one way communication between business partners in a procurement system while Kou was only cited as teaching the use of limited access capability in a procurement system. Neither of these patents discloses the features of Applicants' invention as now set forth in amended claim 6 and claims 7, 8, 9 depending therefrom.

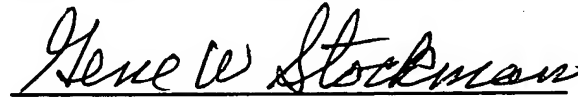
Therefore, the present invention as now set forth in amended claim 6 is patentable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gene W. Stockman", is written over a horizontal line.

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